

IRWM Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop Frequently Asked Questions

Hosted by the California Department of Water Resources on November 6, 2014



Questions	Answers
Disadvantaged Community (DAC) Questions	
Can you send me the name and organization of all of the DAC panelists, please?	DWR was pleased to have participation by the following DAC panelists: Mark Drew, California Trout (Inyo-Mono Region) Jennifer Jenkins Kuszmar, Humboldt County (North Coast Region) Eric Osterling, Kings Resources Conservation District (Kings Basin Region) Maria Elena Kennedy, IRWM Consultant (Greater Los Angeles Region/Inland Empire Region)
DAC funding tends to be limited to service boundaries, however many DACs are not limited by boundaries. Many projects benefiting DACs are outside service boundaries. Will DWR consider DAC funding and support grow to a regional perspective?	DWR is collaborating with stakeholders to investigate opportunities to assist DACs, disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, and local agencies with severe funding constraints in addressing their water management challenges. In some instances, other State-administered grants (outside of IRWM) may be better-suited sources of funding. More information regarding DAC involvement in the IRWM Grant Program can be found in the IRWM Grant Program Guidelines or in the Catalog of Resources from the IRWM Stakeholder Capacity Building Workshop.
There are many different definitions when it comes to defining DACs. When will all of the definitions be consistent (including definitions from AB32, SB575, CalEPA, Strategic Growth Council, DWR, SWRCB)?	State agencies administering grant funding must use definitions as articulated in the legislation directing funding to a specifically defined community. Once there is a consistent definition used in legislation, the different state grant funding programs will use a consistent definition.
The DWR Water Energy grant has the "enviroscreen" definition for disadvantaged communities. Will this definition be adopted in the IRWM process going forward? While MHI isn't perfect, the current version of Enviroscreen precludes most of rural CA, especially the headwaters regions.	The Enviroscreen definition for DACs is specifically identified by the legislation allocating the Water Energy grant funding. This will not be the definition for the IRWM funding moving forward as Proposition 84 has a different definition, as identified by the legislation, for IRWM planning and implementation funding.
Will there be a final report developed summarizing the findings of the DAC Pilot Projects, including the Technical Assistance Tools developed?	Each DAC Pilot Project grantee is producing a report of findings as part of their individual funding agreements. These reports will be posted on the IRWM Program website in the coming year, and an announcement email will be sent to IRWM Program listserv subscribers.
It is difficult for DACs to front the funds associated with an IRWM project and to wait for State reimbursement. Has DWR examined any other options for providing upfront funding to DACs?	DWR is investigating opportunities to expedite State grant reimbursement to DACs. DWR is also collaborating with external and internal stakeholders to investigate opportunities to assist DACs, economically distressed areas, and local agencies with severe funding constraints in addressing their water management challenges.
How does DWR plan to incorporate comments from IRWM regions that sometimes the DAC definition misses DACs?	The IRWM Grant Program continually accepts comments for IRWM regions regarding DAC definitions. Please email us at: dwr_irwm@water.ca.gov . Prior to Prop 84 grant solicitations, communities are eligible to submit the appropriate information for DWR approval regarding DAC status of a defined community, equivalent to the median household income metrics.
Calaveras is the number one watershed county in the state and one of the poorest counties - does it qualify as a high priority "disadvantaged community"?	For the purpose of administering the IRWM financial assistance program, DWR produces grant guidelines, with public input, consistent with statutory requirements. At present, the designation of "high priority disadvantaged community" does not exist. Please reference the IRWM Grant Program Guidelines Appendix G for information regarding disadvantaged communities.
With regard to the requirement that IRWMP's address DACs within their boundaries, should the IRWMP group use the Prop 84 or CalEPA definition of DAC or both?	The DAC definition specifically tied to the funding source should be used when competing for IRWM Program financial assistance.

Questions	Answers
Funding Questions	
Will there be funding available and how would multiple regions submit for Inter-Regional Projects?	Proposition 84 inter-regional funding is no longer available.
Under Prop 1 - What is the disadvantaged community definition? Are funds identified in Prop 1 to go to DACs?	DWR is currently looking into the definitions for disadvantaged communities from the recently passed Proposition 1 legislation. More information regarding the definition of DACs as defined in Proposition 1 will be identified in the upcoming year.
Is there any O&M funding available to maintain the Capital Improvement Project over its life? For example, the water resources control board may fund the construction of an arsenic removal facility, but the local community will probably not be able to afford the cost of operating it.	Operation and maintenance funding is not currently available through the IRWM grant program.

Questions	Answers
Climate Change Questions	
How do you determine that the climate change model is the best available and most accurate?	Ultimately, the selection of climate change models is a matter of judgment and can be based on numerous criteria, including assumptions about future greenhouse gas emission scenarios. The State is currently looking into providing a set of climate change metrics that local agencies and others can use to evaluate the impacts of climate change on water resources.

Questions	Answers
DWR Regional Services Questions	
Many of the DAC panelists point to funding or resource constraint with respect to planning and writing grant applications. What can DWR do to facilitate/enable DACs with this effort?	The use of bond funding is governed by statute. DWR is collaborating with stakeholders to investigate opportunities to assist DACs in addressing their water management challenges, including technical assistance with planning and implementation, within statutory limitations.
Is DWR technical assistance through competitive grants or direct service on a case by case basis?	DWR technical assistance is available as a direct service. Requests for assistance are always accepted, and they are evaluated and assigned on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with need and resource availability.

Questions	Answers
Governance Questions	
What IRWMP is Calveras in? Is there a "governance"?	Calaveras County is one of nine member agencies in the Mokelumne-Amador-Calaveras (MAC) IRWM Region. The MAC IRWM Region has established a Joint Powers of Authority (JPA) governance structure. More information is available at: http://www.umrwa.org/mac_region_irwm_program.html .

Questions	Answers
Project Benefits Questions	
Is there an effort to analyze unintended consequences of projects, post completion (both positive and negative)?	Analysis of unintended consequences by IRWM Regions is not required by DWR. IRWM grant applicants must identify anticipated project benefits as part of the competitive grant selection process, and anticipated negative consequences must be disclosed as required by CEQA/NEPA. Reporting obligations for IRWM Proposition 84 implementation projects continue through 10 years following completion of projects funded by IRWM grants.
Does DWR go back to check how accurate physical benefit assessments are?	As part of IRWM grant administration responsibilities, DWR staff review quarterly reports of progress by grantees and make regular field visits to observe grant-funded projects first-hand.
Can we see an example of a physical benefit table?	The most recent proposal solicitation package from the 2014 IRWM Drought Grant Solicitation contains an example of a physical benefit table on page 23. The link to the Drought PSP is: http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/ImplementationGrants/P84_IRWM_PSP_Drought2014_Final.pdf .
What is the legal definition of "multi-benefit"?	On page 14 of the Proposition 84 IRWM Drought Guidelines, eligible project types for Proposition 84 grant funding are further explained with a description of projects that yield multiple benefits.
Low Impact Design: Has DWR worked with the counties who have updated their design standards to include LID Designed Projects?	The DWR IRWM Grant program has supported low impact designed projects and funded LID designed projects in many different regions.

General Comments	Responses
Much of the DAC funding is for public water systems. It is difficult to get funding for a community that doesn't meet the requirements for a public water system.	State-administered IRWM grants may not be the best suited funding source for every situation. DWR is collaborating with stakeholders to investigate opportunities to assist DACs, disadvantaged communities, economically distressed areas, and local agencies with severe funding constraints in addressing their water management challenges.
DAC funding comes in the form of federal dollars usually through the Consolidated Plan (Infrastructure and now New Markets Tax Credits). Census tracts are used, block groups are not. Data is based one-year census. We need consistency to fund projects in DACs.	State agencies administering grant funding must use definitions as articulated in the legislation directing funding to a specifically defined community. Once there is a consistent definition used in legislation, the different state grant funding programs will use a consistent definition when administering funding the DACs.